

MEETING NOTES
EGEA Working Group 9 – Mobile Air-Conditioning Systems

Wednesday, 6th June 2012, 10h30-17h00

EGEA Offices (c/o FIGIEFA)
Boulevard de la Woluwe, 42
BE – 1200 Brussels

Participants:

AICA/ Brain Bee spa	Andrea Cantadori
AICA/ Ecotechnics spa	Giovanni Ottantini
AICA/ Luvata Italy	Stefano Collavini
AICA/ SPX Italy	Alessandro Carluccio
ASA/ Dometic Waeco International	Guido Sasse
ASA/ Hella	Pete Bradley
ASA/ Texa spa	Oliver Schilling
AVL DiTest	Bernd Tetyczka
GEA/ Autocal	Guy Foster
GEA/ Autocal	Neil Jeffery
FMA/TAE	Luc Thijs
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EGEA Secretariat	Neil Pattemore
EGEA Secretariat	Eléonore van Haute

1. Opening and welcome

On behalf of EGEA, Neil Pattemore and Pete Bradley welcomed all participants and thanked them particularly for their support for this third Working Group 9 on MAC.

2. Approval of the minutes of the last Working Group 9 meeting held on 4th April 2012 in Brussels

With no further remarks, the minutes of the last WG9 meeting held on April 4th were unanimously approved.

3. Review of the decision for the basis of the proposed EGEA specification

3.1. Objectives and intentions

Pete Bradley gave a presentation on the objectives and intentions of the creation of the EGEA specification (please see attachment).

3.2. Basis for work: VDA specification or alternatives

- Andrea Cantadori reported the AICA position following the creation of the new WG at AICA level. He informed the members that they would have preferred a bottom-up technical specification definition, by collecting instances from different manufacturers, instead of starting from VDA specifications. As the WG9 has already started working efficiently on the EGEA specifications, Andrea Cantadori agreed to continue further with what was already done but discussing and including AICA comments (please see attached report from AICA meeting).

3.3. Existing standards

- Existing standards have been listed by Pete Bradley and reviewed by all WG9 members.

3.4. Best practices and working rules

- Pete Bradley presented to the members the best practices and working rules that have been acknowledged and agreed by all participants (please see attached presentation).

3.5. Consensus and actions planned

- Pete Bradley presented to the members the definition of consensus and this was acknowledged by all participants (please see attached presentation).

4. EGEA 1234YF specification

4.1. Ongoing creation

Discussion

- Before going into further discussion, Pete Bradley pointed out that standards are volunteer and that there are no legal constraints behind that except if these are referenced into European legislation which makes them mandatory.
- Question from Olivier Schilling about the purpose/use of these specifications. Pete Bradley answered by explaining that ideally it should be an 'EGEA label' but as EGEA has no resource to monitor/control the compliance to such a label, it was decided previously by WG9 members to go for a more flexible specification together with a best practice document.
- Discussion between members whether the Machinery Directive or other legal requirements (e.g. Measuring Instrument Directive, ISO-SAE standards,...) should be referenced in the EGEA specifications to give these specifications more credibility for its marketing/use in the sector.

To reinforce this credibility, Andrea Cantadori suggested to appoint a test lab to test whether manufacturers comply with EGEA specifications, as already done in USA.

Actions/Decisions

- WG9 Members to review Machinery Directive and chapter 3 of VDA specifications to check which legal requirements would be acceptable to be referenced into EGEA Specifications to give it more 'credibility'.

4.2. Comments and feedback from WG9 members

- **Comments from AICA:** the members went through the VDA/EGEA Specification comparison document to review some points raised by Andrea Cantadori and its Working Group. For further detail, please see attached document with new modifications (dated 6th June 2012).

Decision: WG9 members are invited to countercheck and comment on points 6.19 through to points 7.3 for the next WG9 meeting.

- Discussion regarding the **reference of the use of a gas identifier**.
It is proposed that there will be two levels of specification: one to include a refrigerant identifier and the second without an integral refrigerant identifier.

EGEA considers that a refrigerant identifier should always be used, however, if an identifier already exists then it may not be an integral part of the service unit. However, this unit would include a positive confirmation feature that confirms that the technician had satisfied themselves of the purity of the refrigerant.

Question whether although a recommendation has been given to the operator to use an external gas identifier which then declares that the test has been carried out → where does the liability lie if there is a contamination. Is it with the service unit manufacturer or the operator?

Action: The EGEA Secretariat to countercheck with the lawyers where the liability lies in this situation.

- Continuation of the drafting of the EGEA Specification. The Members went through the VDA/EGEA Specification comparison document until point 6.18.

Action: As regards, point 6.18, Alessandro Carluccio to check the SPX patent on systems for non-condensable gases.

5. F-Gas training and accreditation

5.1. Feedback from the European Commission

- Neil Pattemore informed the members that the Commission confirmed that there are no new requirements to have for the HFO1234YF concerning the 'F-Gas training' as it is not listed as an environmental threat. Good practice is to continue with the existing training, which although not a legal requirement, is of commercial interest to minimize the loss of expensive refrigerant.

5.2. Operator and service engineer qualifications/training

- Exchange of practice amongst WG9 members regarding the qualifications/training requirements in respective EU Member States.

6. Any other business

- Pete Bradley presented a compilation of questions regarding the introduction and obligations to fulfill the new refrigerant.

1. Further investigation is needed.
2. Clarification is required.
3. No.
4. Difference between legal and commercial implications.
5. Vehicle owners would even know that their vehicles is filled with new refrigerant.
6. No.
7. Labeling

Actions: The EGEA Secretariat to write further a letter to the Commission asking for further clarifications on the points raised during the meeting (please see attached presentation).

- Pete Bradley informed that he will be speaker at the next EAAC Conference and added that this would be an opportunity for EGEA WG9 to give a presentation on its activities and objectives. Andrea Cantadori and Alessandro Carluccio will as well be speakers at this event. Pete Bradley asked WG9 agreement to give such a presentation.

Decision: WG9 unanimously approved that Pete Bradley will give a presentation at this conference on behalf of EGEA, as WG9 Chairman.

7. Workplan and schedule for future meetings

- Next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday 29th August 2012 at 9h00. Hotel rooms will be block-booked for WG9 members arriving the night before.

8. Thank you and closure

- Neil Pattemore thanked all participants for an active and productive meeting, Pete Bradley underpinned this and thanked Eleonore for taking the minutes.

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Eléonore van Haute
Policy Officer